



Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A trailer hitch storage apparatus for storing a trailer hitch on a vehicle, wherein the trailer hitch includes a support member that extends along a longitudinal axis and defines a transverse pin-receiving opening, comprising:

a mounting plate-member configured to be attached to a-the vehicle;

5 at least one-receiving a bracket arrangement extending outwardly from the mounting plate-member, wherein the bracket arrangement includes at least one outwardly open recess configured to receive the tubular-support member of a-the trailer hitch, wherein the outwardly open recess of the bracket arrangement is configured to receive the support member upon movement of the support member toward the mounting member into the open
10 recess in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis of the support member; and

a hanger carried by and extending outwardly from the mounting member, wherein the hanger is configured to fit through a hitch pin-hole extend into the pin-receiving opening of the tubular-support, said hanger extending from the mounting plate member upon movement of the support member toward the mounting member into the open recess.

2. (Currently Amended) The trailer hitch storage apparatus of claim 1, wherein the hanger comprises a first section perpendicular to-secured to and extending outwardly from the base plate-mounting member, and a second section extending from the first section and angled upwardly from-said relative to the first section.

3. (Currently Amended) The trailer hitch storage apparatus of claim 1, wherein the bracket arrangement comprises a pair of horizontally spaced brackets, and wherein the hanger comprises a-center an outwardly extending post configured to fit through a hitch pin hole-of the tubular-support, said-center post extendingthat extends from the mounting plate
5 member between first-and-second-receivingthe pair of brackets.

4. (Currently Amended) The trailer hitch storage apparatus of claim 3, wherein the ~~center-outwardly extending post is configured to extend entirely through the support member, and defines a distal end that~~ includes an aperture ~~at its distal end~~ configured to receive a securing means.

5. (Original) The trailer hitch storage apparatus of claim 4, wherein the securing means is an anti-theft device that prevents removal of the trailer hitch from the storage apparatus.

6. (Original) The trailer hitch storage apparatus of claim 5, wherein the anti-theft device is a lock inserted through the aperture on the center post.

7. (Currently Amended) The trailer hitch storage apparatus of claim 3, wherein the ~~receiving pair of brackets and the center-outwardly extending post~~ are pivotally connected to the mounting ~~plate~~member.

8. (Currently Amended) The trailer hitch storage apparatus of claim 3, wherein the ~~receiving pair of brackets and the center-outwardly extending post~~ are hingedly attached to the mounting ~~plate~~member.

9. (Currently Amended) The trailer hitch storage apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mounting ~~plate includes member~~ defines an upper end that includes a horizontal engagement plate ~~connected to the upper end of the base plate,~~ configured for attachment of the apparatus to the ~~an~~ inner wall of a truck bed wall.

10. (Currently Amended) The trailer hitch storage apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mounting ~~plate~~member, ~~receiving the bracket arrangement and the hanger~~ are ~~integral~~formed integrally with each other.

11. (Currently Amended) The trailer hitch storage apparatus of claim 3, ~~further comprising wherein each of the pair of horizontally spaced brackets includes~~ at least one hole ~~on each receiving bracket~~ configured to receive a hitch pin.

12. (Currently Amended) A trailer hitch retention device for use in combination with a ~~truck or SUV~~vehicle for storing a trailer hitch on the vehicle, wherein the trailer hitch

includes a support member that extends along a longitudinal axis and defines a transverse pin-receiving opening, comprising:

5 a body including apertures configured to receive fasteners to secure the plate body for mounting to a vehicle wall and at the vehicle, wherein the body includes an upright wall and an outward horizontal extension carried by the body and projecting outwardly from a central region on the plate body upright wall for providing a first support to the tubular extensionsupport member of a detachablethe trailer hitch through a hitch pin receiving hole
10 on said trailer hitchthe pin-receiving opening, wherein the extension is configured to extend into the pin-receiving opening of the support member upon movement of the support member toward the body into the open recess; and

at least one support member including a pair of arms extending from the plate bodyupright wall, wherein the pair of arms define an outwardly open recess configured to
15 receive the support member of the trailer hitch, wherein the outwardly open recess defined by the at least one pair of arms is configured to receive the support member upon movement of the support member toward the body into the open recess in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis of the support member, for retention and support of a trailer hitch from the body.

13. (Currently Amended) The trailer hitch retention device of claim 12, wherein ~~the support member~~ each of the pair of arms includes at least one hole for receiving ~~the~~ an end of a hitch pin.

14. (Currently Amended) The trailer hitch retention device of claim 12, wherein the ~~horizontal~~ outward extension defines a ~~transverse dimension~~ length greater than a transverse dimension of the ~~tubular support~~ support member of the trailer hitch and includes a hole for receiving a securing device.

15. (Currently Amended) The trailer hitch retention device of claim 12, wherein the ~~trailer hitch retention device is collapsible~~ extension and the pair of arms are pivotably mounted to the body to enable the device to be collapsed to provide a space saving alternative when not in use.

16. (Currently Canceled)

17. (Original) The trailer hitch retention device of claim 14, wherein the securing device is a cotter pin.

18. (Original) The trailer hitch retention device of claim 14, wherein the securing device is a lock.

19. (Currently Canceled)

20. (Currently Canceled)

21. (Currently Canceled)

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29. (Currently Canceled)